

1. (Currently Amended) A storage management system for backing up a ~~storage system~~ host comprising a plurality of units of storage, the storage management system comprising:

at least one current store, separate from the host, representing a current state of the host ~~storage system~~;

and

at least one time store, separate from the host and  
the at least one current store, the at least one time store  
storing old data copied from the at least one current store  
and associated timestamps;

wherein the storage management system automatically records information associated with all write commands directed to the plurality of units of storage within the at least one time store, each write command comprising an instruction to overwrite at least one of the plurality of units of storage with new data;

wherein the storage management system copies, prior to overwriting the at least one unit of storage, old data in the at least one current store, representing old data present at the at least one unit of storage, into the at least one time store, wherein the old data is timestamped in the time store, thereby continuously indexing by timestamp in the time store old data to be overwritten with

new data prior to execution of each write command; and

wherein the storage management system is further configured to identify old data that were present in a specified portion of the plurality of units of storage during a specified time prior to being overwritten based at least in part on ~~the~~ a timestamp corresponding to the specified time and associated with the old data in the time store, without creating a snapshot that includes the old data at the specified time.